

## Science Project Topics to Avoid

Science Project Topics to Avoid	Why?
Any topic that boils down to a simple preference or taste comparison. For example, "Which tastes better: Coke or Pepsi?"	Such experiments don't involve the kinds of numerical measurements we want in a science fair project. They are more of a survey than an experiment.
Most consumer product testing of the "Which is best?" type. This includes comparisons of popcorn, bubblegum, make-up, detergents, cleaning products, and paper towels.	These projects only have scientific validity if the Investigator fully understands the science behind why the product works and applies that understanding to the experiment. While many consumer products are easy to use, the science behind them is often at the level of a graduate student in college.
Any topic that requires people to recall things they did in the past.	The data tends to be unreliable.
Effect of colored light on plants	Several people do this project at almost every science fair. You can be more creative!
Effect of music or talking on plants or animals	Difficult to measure.
Effect of running, music, video games, or almost anything on blood pressure	The result is either obvious (the heart beats faster when you run) or difficult to measure with proper controls (the effect of music).
Effect of color on memory, emotion, mood, taste, strength, etc.	Highly subjective and difficult to measure.
Any topic that requires measurements that will be extremely difficult to make or repeat, given your equipment.	Without measurement, you can't do science.
Graphology or handwriting analysis	Questionable scientific validity.
Astrology or ESP	No scientific validity.
Any topic that requires dangerous, hard to find, expensive, or illegal materials.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.
Any topic that requires drugging, pain, or injury to a live vertebrate animal.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.
Any topic that creates unacceptable risk (physical or psychological) to a human subject.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.
Any topic that involves collection of tissue samples from living humans or vertebrate animals.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.

Source: [http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project\\_question.shtml#examples](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_question.shtml#examples)